stands referred to BIFR under the provisions of Sick Industries Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The BIFR has declared NTC (Guj.) along with its constituent units as a sick company and has issued a show cause notice for winding up of this Company.

No NTC Mill in the State of Gujarat has been closed. However, there is cessation of activities in all the mills due to shortage of working capital. Government are considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of the mills becoming positive within the prescribed period. The interest of the workers will be kept in view while finalising the revised turn around strategy.

(c) and (d) A Voluntary Retirement Scheme has been in operation in NTC and as on 31.3.1998, 7951 employees have already availed of the benefits of VRS in NTC (Guj.) Ltd. There is no special retirement scheme separately for technical staff and officers. Under the VRS scheme due compensation at the rate of 45 days wages/salaries for each completed year of service or the wages/salaries for the balance service, whichever is less, in addition to the normal terminal benefits is paid to the employees.

Revival Scheme of NTC

2420. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state:

(a) whether the turn around scheme 1995 for the revival of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills have failed to take off;

(b) the schemes currently with the Textile Ministry to modernise and reorganise the N.T.C. Mills; and

(c) whether Government will take a fresh initiative with the Government of Maharashtra to allow sale of land owned by N.T.C. in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Government had approved a revised turn around strategy for NTC involving modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The funds for modernisation were to be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. This revival plan has been placed before the BIFR since 8 out of 9 subsidiaries have been referred to the BIFR where the matter is presently under consideration. However, the sale of land and assets could not be effected. Major portion of such proceeds have to be generated from sale of surplus land/assets situated in the Mumbai mills of NTC for which State Government clearance is still awaited.

(b) On the basis of a unit wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

(c) The Government have taken up the matter regarding sale of land of NTC Mills in Maharashtra with the Government of Maharashtra at the highest level on a number of occasions. Recently Minister of Textiles met the concerned Ministers in the State Government to expedite the matter.

Rehabilitation of textile workers

2421. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TWRF scheme was introduced by Government with effect from 15th September, 1986 to rehabilitate the workers of closed textile mills;

(b) if so, when and at what level the decision was taken to restrict its implementation to the private sector and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status in this regard?